

Basic Training Module Specifications

Functional Area: V. Traffic

Subject Area: E. Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation

Module Title: 6. TRAFFIC CRASH EVIDENCE COLLECTION:  
ROADWAY SURFACE

Hours: 5

Notes to Instructor:

Module Objectives:

V.E.6.1. Search the Traffic Crash Scene For Physical Evidence.

- a. Determines what evidence may be present at a vehicle crash scene and its possible location (e.g., car with broken headlight would indicate that glass is at scene, direction of travel of vehicle might indicate location of evidence).
- b. Obtains additional assistance to search scene, when necessary.
- c. Searches for physical evidence at the crash scene by starting at the point of impact and working out in the appropriate direction.

V.E.6.2. Collect and Document Physical Evidence From a Traffic Crash Scene.

- a. Identifies items at a traffic crash scene which have potential evidentiary value.
- b. Collects evidence properly:
  - (1) photographs it;
  - (2) locates it on field sketch;
  - (3) uses proper container;
  - (4) keeps evidence from two vehicles separated.
- c. Documents chain of custody of evidence by recording appropriate information about evidence which includes:
  - (1) description,
  - (2) dates,
  - (3) times,
  - (4) location, and
  - (5) name of recovering officer.
- d. Takes evidence to proper location for safekeeping and preservation (e.g., property room).

V.E.6.3. Identify Point(s) of Impact at a Traffic Crash Scene.

- a. Locates physical evidence at the traffic crash scene (e.g., gouge marks, liquids, glass, dirt from undercarriage).
- b. Interviews drivers and witnesses at traffic crash scene.
- c. Evaluates the information available to make a determination of the point of impact (e.g., evaluates physical evidence and information from drivers' and/or witness' statements).

V.E.6.4. Measure Skid Marks.

- a. Identifies the type of skid as:
  - (1) straight,
  - (2) curved,
  - (3) skip,
  - (4) gapped,
  - (5) overlapping.
- b. Determines proper method to measure the skid based on type and extent of the skid:
  - (1) locates beginning and end for measurement;
  - (2) measures each skid mark independently;
  - (3) locates spots along a curved skid mark for measurement.
- c. Requests appropriate assistance to help measure the skid marks, if necessary.
- d. Measures the skid marks using the appropriate equipment (e.g., tape, wheel).
- e. Records the length of the skid marks on a field sketch or notes by:
  - (1) locating and labeling the beginning and end of each skid mark independently (straight); or
  - (2) locating and labeling spots at intervals along a curved skid mark.

**Module History**

Revised 1/05